

Killian set for states as regional silver medalist

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WEST LAWN - One more shot at Shober, that's all Dylan Killian wants.

Killian squared off against Schuylkill Valley's Colin Shober in the championship round for the second straight week Saturday night, and once again lost by technical fall. But when the PIAA Wrestling Championships begin Thursday at Giant Center in Hershey, Killian will have in the back of his mind that there could be another bout with Shober in the making.

Why? Because if the two meet in the state tournament, in will be in the championship round.

"If I wrestle Shober one more time, I will be the happiest man in Giant Center," said Killian, "because that means I'll be a state finalist."

A third postseason rematch against Shober is now Killian's focus. The Annville-Cleona junior won a sectional championship and was, essentially, the second seed when the District Three Class AA tournament began last weekend at Hersheypark Arena. The first seed was Shober, the defending state champ. When they met in the 140-pound district final, Shober rolled to a 20-5 decision, a technical fall that came when Shober turned Killian for three back points at the buzzer.

Saturday night, in the Southeast Region tournament at Wilson High School, it wasn't that close. Shober put on a first-period takedown clinic to take an 11-3 lead and salted things away with a reversal and a pair of near-falls to make it 18-3, ending the bout at 2:37.

Shober hit a single for the first two points, let Killian up, then took

him down with a shuck, let him up again, and stepped around to counter a Killian shot for his third takedown. After letting Killian back up for a third time, Shober hit another step-around, locking up a tight waist at the same time to turn Killian for three tilt points.

Shober opted to start down to start the second period, hit a duck-under for a reversal and turned Killian for two more near-fall points. Killian came off his back, but Shober turned him again, this time for three, and the bout was over.

"I'm upset about the match," said Killian, "but I deserved to be there. I just wanted to go out there and try to do what I can, but there's not much I can do against him."

Killian could only credit Shober for the spate of first-period takedowns.

"I guarantee he's been doing the same studying on me as I have on him," Killian said. "I was trying to focus on some of his main shots and was ready for everything I did. He's pretty much everything - strong, fast and a

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good wrestler."

The win was the 189th of Shober's scholastic career, a continuing Class AA state record. Killian, meanwhile, after posting his 100th win Friday night, then picked up his 101st in Saturday's semifinals, a 5-3 overtime victory over Juniata's Seth Beitz, a wrestler he pinned in the sectional tournament.

"In the sectionals, that (the bout with Beitz) was supposed to be a head-banger," Killian said. "I caught him and ended it early. Wrestling him again, he knew what to expect."

Tied at 3-3 at the end of regulation, Killian hit a head-and-arm go-behind for the takedown in overtime for the win.

Killian was the only Annville-Cleona wrestler to advance out of the regional tournament. Chris Shifflett was eliminated with two losses Friday night while Tony Yohe, after going 1-1 Friday, was beaten 18-7 by Northern Lehigh's Ty Herzog in his second consolation-round bout to see his season come to an end.

Still, Annville-Cleona coach Mike Miller wasn't disappointed with the performance of his team in the postseason. Seven of his wrestlers advanced from the sectional tournament to the District Three tournament, then sent three to the regional tourney.

"I can't say I'm disappointed about anything," said Miller. "I would have liked to see more kids go to states, but you wrestle good kids as you move on. I'm proud of everybody."

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